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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Sprecher, Cindy A., Novak, Julia E., West, James W., Presnell,  
Scott R., Holly, Richard D., and Nelson, Andrew J.  
Application No. : 09/825,561  
Filed : April 3, 2001  
For : SOLUBLE ZALPHA11 CYTOKINE RECEPTORS  
Examiner : Ruixiang Li  
Art Unit : 1646  
Docket No. : 00-22  
Date : February 3, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

LETTER

Dear Sir:

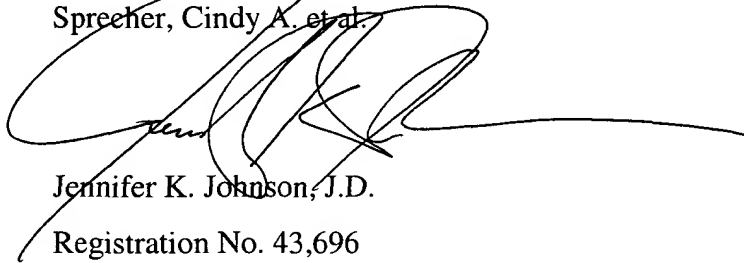
As a follow-up to the Amendment and Response filed January 13, 2003, Applicant respectfully submits the enclosed declaration of the sixth and final inventor, Cindy A. Sprecher, under 37 CFR §1.131 as evidence that the Presnell, et al. reference is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). As explained in the Amendment and Response filed January

13, 2003 obtaining Ms. Sprecher's review and execution of the Rule 131 Declaration was not practicable for the purposes of timely filing a response by the statutory deadline for filing a response to the pending Office Action (dated July 11, 2002). Accordingly, the completion of the record, Applicant is currently forwarding the returned executed copy to the Office, and respectfully requests consideration thereof.

Early reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested. If the Patent Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of this patent application, please call the undersigned at (206) 442-6676.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sprecher, Cindy A. et al.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer K. Johnson', is written over the typed name and registration number.

Jennifer K. Johnson, J.D.

Registration No. 43,696

Enclosures:

Declaration Under 37 CFR § 1.131 (7 pages).

Postcard